Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity

*Common Fund Concept Discussion*
Same Storm, Different Boats

A multilevel, social-ecological model of disease causation can help us understand and address these pernicious patterns.
Developing a Comprehensive Strategy

• Increasing support from all NIH Institutes and Centers for long term, sustained research

• NIH Common Fund as a shorter term source of support to bolster innovation, solve challenges, and address emergent opportunities in areas of trans-NIH interest
  • High Risk/High Reward projects to drive transformation, new ideas, new approaches
  • Coordinated programs involving multidisciplinary teams working together toward defined goals that can be met within 10 years
High-Risk, High-Reward Research Program

• Foster scientific leaps
• No preliminary data or detailed experimental plan required
• Any topic within the broad mission of NIH is welcome (“investigator-initiated”)
• Awards limited to 5 years
• Formal evaluations of this program have shown that these initiatives consistently support research that is exceptionally innovative and which has higher impact than traditional R01s; ACD review in 2018 encouraged continued support and expansion to include a clinically focused initiative
Innovations in Health Disparities Research

- Support **collaborative** investigative teams or **individual** scientists
- Research projects focused on **developing**, **implementing**, or **disseminating** innovative interventions (including prevention studies) that address health disparities
- **Observational** component may be necessary for some projects, but each project is expected to include an **intervention**
- **Transformative**, projects must have the potential to lead to major improvements in health through the development or dissemination of highly innovative interventions
Transformative Health Disparities Research

Concept Clearance: Two Funding Opportunities

- Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity
- Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity at Minority Serving Institutions

• Objectives:
  • To foster the development, testing, and dissemination of innovative interventions focused on elimination of health disparities broadly and in high priority areas
  • To increase the competitiveness of investigators and the research base dedicated to Health Disparities Research at Minority Serving Institutions

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards: $60M over 5 years; 20 awards

Award Project Period: 5 years

Council Action: Vote to clear the concept for these FOAs